

Message Text

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ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 INR-07 EA-07 PRS-01 SS-15 /035 W

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R 190835Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2233

CONFIDENTIAL JAKARTA 0747

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR PFOR ID US

SUBJECT: SHIP VISIT TO JAKARTA

1. WE DO NOT REPEAT NOT BELIEVE VISIT OF USS JUNEAU NEED BE POSTPONED.

2. NOTE TO FOREIGN OFFICE HAS BEEN SUBMITTED REQUESTING APPROVAL, BUT NO REPEAT NO RESPONSE EXPECTED UNTIL ABOUT ONE WEEK PRIOR SHIP'S ARRIVAL, AS IS CUSTOMARY PRACTICE. IN MEANTIME, INDONESIAN NAVY INFORMALLY NOTIFIED, AND PREPARATIONS FOR VISIT ARE GOING FORWARD ON ASSUMPTION THAT, AS USUAL, GOI APPROVAL WILL BE FORTHCOMING.

3. NORMALLY SHIP VISITS RECEIVE ONLY MODERATE PRESS ATTENTION. OUR JUDGMENT IS THAT ODDS ARE AGAINST ANY SPECICAL COVERAGE OF JUNEAU VISIT RELATED TO TIMOR ISSUE IN GENERAL OR UNSC DEGATES IN PARTICULAR. SINCE TIMOR FIGHTING BEGAIN, THERE HAVE BEEN UK, AUSTRALIAN AND FRENCH (LATTER HERE DURING GUICCIARDI VISIT) FLEET VISITS WHICH GIVEN ROUTINE PRESS PLAY. UK VISIT INCLUDED JOINT EXERCISES WITH INDONESIAN NAVY. FRENCH VISIT ALSO PLANNED TO INCLUDE MANEUVERS, BUT THESE WERE CANCELLED DUE "OTHER BUSINESS" INDONESIAN VES- SELS. HOWEVER, NO MANEUVERS (WHICH MIGHT CONCEIVABLY BE INTERPRETED AS SUPPORT FOR INDONESIAN ACTIONS IN TIMOR) PLANNED IN CONNECTION WITH JUNEAU'S CALL.

4. THERE IS ALWAYS SMALL POSSIBILITY THAT ONE OF FOREIGN CONFIDENTIAL

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CORRESPONDENTS IN JAKARTA MIGHT HIGHLIGHT VISIT IN RELA-

TION TO TIMOR IN EVENT IT COINCIDED WITH UNSC DEATES. IN SUCH CASE, WE WOULD PLAN MAKE CLARIFYING STATEMENT EMPHASIZING ROUTINE NATURE OF VISIT AND FACT THAT IT HAD BEEN PLANNED FOR MANY MONTHS, AS WELL AS REITERATING OUR STANDING POLICY OF NON-INVOLVEMENT IN TIMOR.

5. WHAT MIGHT BE MORE SERIOUS CONCERN IN OUR VIEW IS POSSIBILITY THAT VISIT, IF IT ATTRACTED ANY NOTICE IN US, MIGHT BE USED BY MEMBERS OF CONGRESS AS PART OF ATTACK ON US MILITARY AID TO INDONESIA AND ALLEGED USE US EQUIPMENT IN TIMOR --ASSUMING THERE IS ANY CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST IN THIS MATTER.

6. WHILE THERE IS PERHAPS SMALL RISK THAT PRESS OR CONGRESS MIGHT DRAW WRONG CONCLUSIONS FROM VISIT, CANCELLATION OR POSTPONEMENT ALSO SUBJECT TO MISINTERPRETATION BY GOI. IF DECISION IS MADE TO RESCHEDULE OR CANCEL, RECOMMEND THIS BE DONJAS EARLY AS POSSIBLE. LAST MINUTE PULL-OUT (WHICH HAS HAPPENED WITH US VISITS HERE BEFORE FOR LEGITIMATE OPERATIONAL REASONS) THAT COINCIDED WITH UNSC DEBATE ON TIMOR COULD CAUSE GOI RESENTMENT.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, JUNEAU SS, MILITARY VISITS, NAVAL SHIPS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976JAKART00747
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760019-0736
From: JAKARTA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760145/aaaabnox.tel
Line Count: 82
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION PM
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: BoyleJA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 MAY 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <16 SEP 2004 by BoyleJA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SHIP VISIT TO JAKARTA
TAGS: MARR, PFOR, ID, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006